Such performances are childish, and when people ask for the origin of the House of Bonaparte, the answer is easy: it dates from the 18th of Brumaire.

18th, Saint Cloud:

I had foreseen in my instructions that the enemy might withdraw from in front of Brest; for four days they are reported to have been out of sight. This, together with the disappearance of the squadron blockading Rochefort, leaves little doubt as to Villeneuve's return. Admiral Gardner has sailed to meet Villeneuve, who will probably need several days to effect the concentration at Perrol.

20th. (To Vice-Admiral Ganteaurne, at Brest.) You have already received the order to proceed to sea; chase the enemy's frigates, and ascertain their movements. If the enemy are out of sight and have sailed for Ferrol, or are well out to sea heading for Villeneuve, our orders are that you should proceed to Boulogne where all is ready, and where, if we are masters of the sea three days, you will enable us to ring the knell of England.

When you receive this letter we shall already be at Boulogne in person, and everything will be packed on board. Great events are happening, or will shortly happen; don't let your fleet remain useless. If the enemy weaken their numbers in your front, it will be because they suppose that it is Villeneuve who is to make the offensive move. Counter their move by taking the initiative yourself. Be prudent; but know when to be bold.

31st. The news from Italy all points to war, and really Austria is barely keeping up appearances.

August 3d, Boulogne:

Without question, Austria is getting ready for war.